

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/695,317

a carbon black,

wherein said carbon black has a dibutyl phthalate adsorption amount (DBP) of 140 to 200 ml/100 g, an aggregate of said carbon black has a ratio (D_w/D_n) of a weight average diameter (D_w) to a number average diameter (D_n) of 1.80 to 2.40, and said carbon black has a specific tinting strength (T_{int}) and a nitrogen adsorption specific surface area (N_2SA) satisfying an inequality: $T_{int} \geq 0.100 \times \text{nitrogen adsorption specific surface area } (N_2SA) + 93$, and

wherein a ratio ($\Delta D_{50}/D_{st}$) of a half-width (ΔD_{50}) to a mode (D_{st}) of the aggregate of said carbon black is in a range of 1.05 to 2.50.

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concl'd